



WALSINGHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1959

to which is appended the

Report of the

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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1.

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department

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Medical Officer of Health

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Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Water Mains Superintendent.

Mr. F.A. GALL.

Clerk of Works for Water and Sewerage Contracts.

Mr. D.G. SHIRLEY.

Clerical Assistant.

Mrs. E.G. DODMAN.

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

1959

Chairman - Mrs. J.M. Gosselin

Vice-Chairman - Mr. E.F. Hayman

Acting Vice-Chairman
- Mr. G. le Strange

Members - Mr. C.B. Andrews M.B.E.
Mr. H.A. Bond
Mrs. N.S. Clogstoun
Mr. D. Hoy
Mr. G. le Strange
Mrs. L.V. Neale J.P.
Miss V.M. Sprott
Mrs. D.B. Thistleton-Smith
Mr. E.A.E. Turner
Mrs. E.G. Whitehead
Capt. M.E.B. Sparke J.P. (ex officio)
Colonel P.H. Labouchere O.B.E., J.P. (ex officio)

- PREFACE -

The Chairman & Members,
Walsingham R.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the public health of the District for 1959.

The Report includes the reports of the Engineer & Surveyor (Mr. Eagle) and that of the Housing Manager (Mr. Riches), to both of whom I am indebted for their contributions, and a report under the Factories Act which is submitted as Appendix E page 19.

The Vital Statistics for the year reveal an increased birth rate, undoubtedly influenced by the presence among us of a large number of U.S.A.F. families; a reduced infant mortality rate; and a death rate which has varied very little since last year but which compares favourably with the rate for England & Wales (pp.4 & 5).

The incidence of infectious disease shows an increase associated with the periodic endemicity of measles, a disease we have not yet succeeded in preventing and controlling. On the other hand there is cause for satisfaction in the continued absence, mildness or low incidence of so many diseases which not so many years ago wrought havoc among children especially - i.e. diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis, all of which are controlled by specific immunisation. There is a danger that this continued freedom from these diseases may lull many people into a false sense of security which may induce them to omit these necessary vaccinations or omit the equally essential "booster" doses. We cannot afford to lower our guard as it is only by maintaining a high level of general immunity that these diseases can be kept at bay.

In the field of environmental hygiene there have been some very notable advances i.e. the inauguration of the new sewage disposal works at Hempton and the important extensions of water supply services to Parishes in the South Western and South Eastern Areas of the District. Water supplies have been both excellent in quality and abundant in quantity. Indeed it was possible to continue normal supplies throughout the long period of drought last year without the imposition of any restrictions.

Yet another important achievement in the field of public health has been the inauguration of the Council's Lee Warner Estate which provide suitable homes, with communal interests and facilities for 34 aged persons or couples. There is a general trend today to leave aged persons where they are and bring meals to them rather than transplant them to an unfamiliar environment. There is much to be said for this policy but its practicability in a scattered rural area may present insuperable difficulties.

Mr. Riches' report supplements Mr. Eagle's findings on "Housing" in his report. It is clear that housing still remains the biggest and most urgent public health problem. A waiting list which never seems to dwindle appreciably cannot be regarded with complacency, however well the Council have utilised the existing provisions under the Housing Acts. There must surely be something seriously at fault in our national economy which permits so many people to live under such miserable conditions such as disused hutments, overcrowded and substandard houses with little or no prospect of relief in a foreseeable future.

The War has been over 15 years. The Country is experiencing an unrivalled period of prosperity. If a greater effort to settle this painful and perennial problem cannot be made now, then it never will be. Surely it is time that Government policy should be reviewed and revised to provide a more generous and a bolder approach to a problem which affects the happiness and health, mental as well as physical, of so many people and the future generation. I would urge the Council to make the strongest possible representations to the Government in these terms. It is not enough to shrug one's shoulders metaphorically in the knowledge and belief that this same housing problem is common to every part of England while young children are condemned to be brought up in an environment which is unworthy of this great Nation.

My thanks are due to the Council for their continued interest and support, to the Clerk and Staff of the Council for their invariable assistance and co-operation and to the Staff of the Local Health Office who have helped in the preparation of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant

W.H.CRITCHTON.

C.I.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

PART I- General -(1) Staff of the Public Health Department -

There have been no major changes in the Staff of the Public Health Department. As usual it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Eagle, the Surveyor and with the two Additional Inspectors, Messrs. Doughty and Page.

(2) Area & Population -

(a) No change in area - 39 Parishes; 88,818 acres.

(b) The population of the District shows a decrease of 190 according to the estimate prepared by the Registrar General, the figure for 1959 being 23,890 as against 24,680 in 1958, 23,850 in 1957 and 24,190 in 1956. These annual fluctuations in the intercensal years are difficult to explain. As there were 370 births and 203 deaths, one would have expected an increase of 167.

(3) The Rateable value of the District is £206,095

(4) The product of the ld. Rate 1958 - 59 was £810.

(5) Meteorological Factors - 1959 was an exceptional year and one which will be remembered for many years for its perfect summer weather. Every imaginable record was broken; weeks and weeks of brilliant sunshine made everybody look well and happy - all perhaps except the farmers and gardeners who complained bitterly of the drought.

The data (by courtesy of the R.A.F. West Raynham) are shown in Appendix A.

- Vital Statistics -

(1) Births - The Registrar General's figures for live births and still births occurring in the District during 1959 are as follows:-

Live Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	182 (193)	173 (165)	355 (358)
Illegitimate	4 (4)	11 (6)	15 (10)
	186 (197)	184 (171)	370 (368)
Still Births			
Legitimate	3 (4)	5 (2)	8 (6)
Illegitimate	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
Total Births (Live & Still)			379 (374)

* Figures in brackets relate to 1958.

(2) The Live Birth Rate - The crude birth rate is 15.4 per 1,000 as compared with 14.8 in 1958. The corrected birth rate is 19.7 per 1,000 as compared with 18.84 in 1958. The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1959 was 16.5 per 1,000 population.

(3) The Still Birth Rate - This was 23.74 per 1,000 births, live and still. The figure for 1958 was 16.0 per 1,000. The Rate for England and Wales was 20.7.

(4) Infant Mortality-

(a) Infant deaths - Only 5 children under one year of age died in 1959 as compared with 10 in 1958 and 12 in 1957 and 8 in 1956. Of the five deaths, one was male and the remainder female; and four were legitimate and only one illegitimate.

(b) Infant Mortality Rates -

(i) Total - 13.51 per 1,000 live births compared with 27.1 per 1,000 in 1958 and 22.0 per 1,000 in England and Wales.

(ii) Legitimate- 10.81 per 1,000 live births compared with 27.3 in 1958

(iii) Illegitimate- 2.7 per 1,000. There were no illegitimate infant deaths in 1958.

(iv) Neonatal - Five children under 4 weeks of age died in 1958 (1 male; 4 female). In fact they comprise all the infant deaths and, as above, 4 were legitimate and 1 illegitimate. The neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 13.51 which compares favourably with the 19.0 per 1,000 in the preceding year.

(v) Early Neonatal Mortality Rate - Deaths of infants under 1 week per 1,000 total live births. This was 8.1 per 1,000

(vi) Perinatal Mortality Rate - Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births. This was 31.7.

(5) Illegitimate Births- There were 15 illegitimate live births and one still birth, a total of 16 representing 4.2% of the total births, an appreciable increase on the preceding years' figure of 2.6%.

(6) Maternal Mortality- There were again no deaths connected with pregnancy, abortion or confinement.

(7) Deaths -

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes was 203. Of these 107 were males and 96 females. The preceding year's figure was 214.

(b) The Crude death rate- was 8.4 per 1,000 and the corrected death rate 9.3 per 1,000 as compared with 8.7 and 9.65 per 1,000 respectively in 1958. The rate for England and Wales is 11.6 per 1,000.

(c) The causes of death- These are detailed in a Statement at Appendix B (see page 15). Heart diseases comprising coronary disease (30), other heart disease (40) and hypertension with heart disease (1) account for no less than 34.9% of the total deaths; cancer (42 cases) for 20.6%; & vascular lesions of the nervous system for 12.8%. It should again be noted that all three deaths from cancer of the lung occurred among males as was the case in the preceding year. Much could be done by judicious dieting and restriction in smoking to prolong a healthy life or to make it more tolerable on old age.

- Communicable Diseases -

(1) The number of infectious diseases notified during the year rose by 116 to 209 compared with 93 in the preceding year. This increase is due largely to the outbreak of measles which occurred. The figures were as follows:-

	'58	'57
Measles	160 (60)	(425)
Whooping Cough	17 (2)	(43)
Scarlet Fever	5 (1)	(14)
Tuberculosis (pulm.)	4 (2)	(5)
" (non-pulm.)	4 (1)	(2)
Pneumonia	4 (8)	(19)
Poliomyelitis(non-paralytic)	1 (1)	(2)
Food Poisoning	12 (15)	(4)
Dysentery	- (2)	(-)
Erysipelas	- (1)	(-)
Infective Jaundice	1 (-)	(-)
Tetanus	1 (-)	(-)
	<u>209 (93)</u>	<u>(514)</u>

The figures in brackets indicate the corresponding number of cases in 1958 and 1957. The total number of cases in the last six years was as follows:-

<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958.</u>
267	300	145	514	93

(2) Measles - There were two outbreaks, the larger began in January, reached its peak in February and March and tailed off in April. This was centred in and around the R.A.F. and U.S.A.F. bases in Raynham and Sculthorpe. The second, smaller outbreak occurred in May, June, July and August in connection with an outbreak in Wells-next-the-Sea, which, hitherto immune to attacks of infection from adjacent and neighbouring Parishes, started an outbreak and infected its neighbours.

The age and sex distribution of the disease was as follows:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Under 1	2	1
1 -	3	4
2 -	7	8
3 -	7	3
4 -	8	5
5 - 9	35	36
10 - 14	16	20
15 - 24	-	3
25 + over	-	2
	<u>78</u>	<u>82</u>
Total	<u>160</u>	

Very clearly the figures show that the children of school age were those mainly affected. None was serious but an attack, to varying degree, checks a child's progress in development, often leads to unpleasant sequelae and, almost invariably to a prolonged convalescence. I, for one, therefore would welcome a specific protective vaccine against this totally unnecessary and not so trivial evil.

(3) Whooping Cough - The time has come for all concerned, parents, teachers and doctors to forget the name of 'whooping cough' and switch over to 'pertussis' to describe this disease because the 'whoop' has ceased to be its principal characteristic since the introduction of specific vaccination. In fact, it would be wise if all concerned should be encouraged to regard any case showing frequent spasms of congestive coughing, by day and by night, particularly, though not necessarily, with vomiting, as a suspected case of pertussis calling for immediate segregation. This is all the more important when one realises that once the "whoop" develops the child is usually past the infective stage. It is therefore useless - and dangerous - to wait for the "whoop".

Most of the cases which were notified had not in fact been immunised as vaccination had not become known, or available, at their time. It is gratifying to note the increasing demand for immunisation nowadays as shown by the growing attendances at Infant Welfare Clinics where, as a matter of routine, all infants are given the Triple vaccine (dip - pertussis - tetanus) in their 3rd. 4th and 5th months so as to ensure protection during the most dangerous age. Despite a ban, imposed last year on the use of combined antigens during the polio 'season', 502 immunisations were carried out in the Area as against 324 in the preceding year and of these 197 were carried out in the District. Thus:-

Vaccine used	Under 1 yr.		1 - 4		5 - 14		Totals	
	Area	District	Area	District	Area	District	Area	District
Dip/Pertussis/Tetanus "Triple"	110	47	372	139	11	3	493	189
Dip/Pertussis "Combined"	-	-	9	8	-	-	9	8
					Total		502	197

The age and sex distribution of the cases of pertussis which were notified was as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Under 1 yr.	1	-
1 -	1	-
2 -	-	1
3 -	-	1
4 -	1	-
5 - 9	1	5
10 - 14	2	1
15 - 24	-	2
25 and over	1	-
	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>
Total	17	

The main Parishes affected were Hindringham, Langham, Field Dalling, Saxlingham, Wighton and Fakenham.

(4) Scarlet Fever - The five cases notified came from Field Dalling (2), Sculthorpe, Ryburgh and Hindringham. Today, this disease, known as "Scarlet" or "Scarlatina", is mild and difficult to diagnose differentially from a tonsillitis caused by the same organism i.e. the streptococcus. Very wisely it is usually treated at home where the possibilities of cross infection do not exist. What is important however, is the disinfection of premises after the attack is over as furnishings are apt to harbour the haemolytic streptococci and, more particularly, the patient himself whose discharges may be infectious after his main clinical symptoms have subsided.

The cases notified occurred "sporadically" in January, February, March, April and May.

(5) Tuberculosis - The age and sex distribution of the new cases notified during the year is interesting. Thus:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	1 Blakeney	-	-	-
15 - 24	1 W.Raynham	-	-	-
25 - 44	1 M.Const.	-	-	(1 Cranmer 1 Fakenham)
45 - 64	1 M.Const.	-	-	1 Blakeney) 1 Stiffkey)
Totals	4	-	-	4

The Norwich Mass Radiography Unit visited Melton Constable and neighbouring Parishes (Holt & Cloy) in early April when 416 persons were X-rayed and 5 referred for further examination. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was revealed as a result of the survey.

In May, a report was received that a bulk sample of milk taken from a herd in the Fulnvestone Area has been found positive to tubercle bacilli. The infection was traced to an individual cow which was slaughtered. None of the cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis could have been attributed to this infection.

At the end of the year the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register had altered little from the preceding year. Thus:-

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Males	Females	Males	Females
29 (30)	26 (25)	1 (3)	6 (3)
55 (55)		7 (6)	

The B.C.G. vaccination programme for school children in their 14th & 15th years was well received though the number tested and vaccinated were appreciably smaller than those done in the preceding year. Thus:-

	<u>No. Tested</u>	<u>No. Vaccinated</u>
Fakenham Grammar	48 (178)	41 (121)
Fakenham Sec. Mod.	69 (92)	56 (77)
Wells Sec. Mod.	60 (114)	44 (81)
Melton Constable Sec.Mod.	54 (56)	41 (49)
	<u>231 (440)</u>	<u>182 (328)</u>

The percentage of acceptances ranged from 75% at the Grammar School to 60% at Wells Sec. Mod. and 56% and 54% respectively at Melton Constable and Fakenham Sec. Mod. Schools. A protective measure of proved value for any adolescent going out into the world, B.C.G. vaccination should command a higher degree of acceptances. Unfortunately parents often leave it to their children to decide.

The larger number of tests in the Fakenham Grammar School during 1958 is accounted for by the fact that, as a special case, B.C.G. vaccination was offered to school leavers of all ages.

(6) Polionyelitis - A case of non-paralytic polionyelitis was diagnosed in hospital in a youth of 20 who had had two doses of polio' vaccine. The diagnosis was somewhat doubtful as the case was admitted originally (September) as a possible meningitis.

The polionyelitis vaccination programme continued throughout the year with unabated vigour. With the excellent co-operation of General Medical Practitioners, R.A.F. Medical Staff and my two Assistant Medical Officers (Dr. Jean Lacey and Dr. Morley Chadwick) nearly 14,000 (13,957) injections were carried out in the Area during the year, and by the end of the year, 7821 persons of all ages had been protected with three doses and 3169 had had two doses since the inception of the programme. 4042 injections were carried out in the Rural District alone.

Infants are offered polio' vaccination as a routine measure at the 6th, 7th & 14th months. A large proportion of expectant mothers is included among those who have been immunised and it is hoped that none will miss the opportunity, not only for their own sakes but also for their infant's sake, who inherits a high degree of protection for at least six months.

The number and character of those immunised in the Area by the end of 1959 was as follows:-

	Immunised with three doses.	Immunised with two doses.
G.P's & families	8	10
Hospital Staff	-	4
Ambulance Staff	10	-
Expectant mothers	311	216
Adolescents (15-25)	1224	940
School children (5-14)	4845	1435
Pre-school children	1423	554
Totals	7821	3159

The demand for vaccination for adolescents, having risen sharply after the unfortunate death of a popular young footballer, had fallen off to vanishing point by the end of the year.

No official pronouncement has yet been made on further "booster" doses but it may well be necessary for a 4th dose to be recommended three years after the initial course if immunity is to be maintained at a high level.

(7) Food Poisoning - Although only one official notification of food poisoning was received of a case at Kettlestone, one of a family of five, infected with Salmonella typhimurium, investigations led to the discovery of ten other cases in the same village. A baby in an adjoining Parish was found to be infected with Salmonella Kentucky. The first cases occurred in April but it was not until August, after supervision and frequent bacteriological sampling, that the families concerned could finally be pronounced free from infection.

(8) Diphtheria - Once again it is gratifying to report no incidence of diphtheria, the seventh clear year in succession. It is commonplace now that this satisfactory state can only be maintained by continued immunisation and there is every indication that this wise precaution is realised by the vast majority of mothers today, judging by the increasing number attending the Infant Welfare Clinics.

During the year, although restrictions on combined antigens were imposed during the polio' season, it was possible to immunise more children than in the preceding year. Thus:-

Antigens used	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 +	Totals
Dip/Pertussis/Tet.	110 (146)	372 (70)	11 (-)	- (-)	493 (216)
Dip/Pertussis	- (78)	9 (30)	- (-)	- (-)	9 (108)
Dip/Tetanus	- (-)	5 (3)	- (-)	- (-)	5 (3)
Diphtheria	- (12)	1 (5)	2 (1)	- (-)	3 (18)
Totals	110	387	13	-	510 (345)

(Figures in brackets relate to preceding year).

In addition 305 "booster" doses were administered.

The corresponding totals for Walsingham Rural District alone are 440 primary immunisations at all ages, plus 197 "boosters".

It is hoped now that, with the diminishing commitments in the polio' vaccination programme, it will be possible to step up the "booster" vaccinations at 3 yrs.of age and at school entry (5).

(9) Tetanus - In April a case of tetanus was reported from Langham. A young farm labourer (27yrs) sustained a punctured wound of the foot and, despite immediate administration of A.T. Serum in Hospital, he developed tetanus but survived after a long and painful illness. The case caused a tremendous impact among the local population and the demand for tetanus immunisation rose abruptly and is, in fact, still high.

Infants today have the benefit of tetanus immunisation in combination with diphtheria and pertussis which is given as a matter of routine in the 3rd, 4th and 5th months. This "Triple" vaccine has however only been available during the last two years and there are therefore many pre-school children for whom tetanus immunisation is being sought and practically all the children at present attending school have not been protected.

Without discussing the popular belief that tetanus is more widely prevalent in Norfolk than in any part of the United Kingdom, it is undoubtedly a wise precaution for all children and all those whose duties and pleasures bring them in contact with the soil to seek protection against tetanus by immunisation.

Unfortunately confusion exists in the minds of many people on the relative merits of Antitetanic Serum which only confers a short lived temporary protection, and immunisation by Tetanus Toxoid which induces an active immunity for at least 5 years and only needs "booster" doses after this period or in emergency.

The immunisations against Tetanus carried out during the year were as follows:-

Antigen used	Under 1		1 - 4yrs.		5-14 yrs.		15 +		Totals	
	Area	District	Area	District	Area	District	Area	District	Area	District
Tetanus Toxoid.	3	2	85	50	109	48	197	138	394	238
"Triple" Dip/Pert/Tot.	110	47	372	139	11	3	-	-	493	189
Dip/Tet.	-	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	5	4
Totals	113	49	462	193	120	51	197	138	892	431

Thus out of a total of 892 persons of all ages immunised against Tetanus, 431, or nearly 50% were done in the Rural District. This clearly reflects the propaganda value of the unfortunate case at Langham.

(10) Smallpox & Chicken-Pox - No cases occurred but several cases of chickenpox were "notified" by the School Authorities during the year. Although the School Exclusion Regulations prescribe a 14 day period of exclusion of chickenpox cases, the disease is not notifiable under the Public Health Act 1936 and it frequently happens that the "diagnosis" is arrived at by hearsay and often without the Family Doctor being called in. This makes any measure of control by exclusion from school farcical and often leads to controversy between parents and teacher.

Although certain complications may arise which might be serious, fortunately these are rare. What is certainly more dangerous from the public health point of view is whether the case is indeed one of chickenpox or of mild smallpox. Differentiation often demands expert opinion and in a country which is unfortunately generally averse to smallpox vaccination, and in which only some 30% at most are vaccinated, this situation has obvious risks to the people, particularly in these days of fast air travel.

Smallpox vaccination is offered to infants at Welfare Clinics at the 8th month. With modern methods, smallpox vaccination is safe and confers a high degree of protection for at least 5 years, if successful. With the special risks obtaining nowadays, it is foolhardy for any parent to expose his child to the possibility of contracting this deadly and disfiguring disease merely because he "doesn't believe in it".

With the enthusiastic help of the Nursing and Health Visiting Staff it was possible to persuade a fair number of mothers to vaccinate their infants either at the Welfare Clinics or by their own Family Doctors, but more health education is needed in this important field. The number of vaccinations carried out was as follows:-

	Under 1		1 - 4		5 - 14		15 +		Totals	
	Area		Area		Area		Area		Area	
Primary	Area	301 (396)	40 (14)	27 (12)	15 (15)		34 (34)		417	(471)
	Dist.	102	21	14	8		7		152	
Re-vacc.	Area	-	1	10	17		63		91	(113)
	Dist.	-	-	2	6		21		29	
Totals									Area	508 (584)
									District ..	181 -

Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.
District figures not available for 1958.

- ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE -

Housing - I am indebted to Mr. Riches the Housing Manager for the following report :-

The Housing Situation in the District at the end of the year was as follows:-

a) Estimated number of unfit houses	36	
b) Demolition orders made during the year	3	
c) Unfit houses demolished	40	
d) Houses rendered fit during the year	12	
e) Improvement grants awarded under Housing Act 1949	£11,166	
f) Houses completed during the year		
1. By Council	35	
2. Privately	30	
g) Houses under construction at end of year		
1. By Council	20	
2. Privately	17	
h) Number of applicants on the Waiting List	348	(348)

Analysis of Waiting List

Urgent Cases

Families living in Class 5 houses, overcrowded, "Medical Cases", living in hutments	97	(126)
Families sharing accommodation	66	(53)
Engaged couples	16	(17)
	<u>179</u>	<u>(196)</u>

Other Cases

Families living in Class 3 houses)	
Families requiring smaller accommodation		
Families requiring accommodation nearer to work		
Families having to move from tied houses		169 (152)
		<u>348 (348)</u>

Number of applications received during 1959	138	(128)
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Families living in hutments

Little Snoring - On requisition from Ministry	11
(Converted under Para.6 Ministry Circular 20/46)	
Owned by Council	14
(Converted under Para.6 Ministry Circular 20/46)	
Langham - Owned by Council	1
(converted under Para.6 Ministry Circular 20/46)	
Married Quarters taken on 21 year lease .	13
Pudding Norton - Owned by Council	61
(Converted under Para.4 Ministry Circular 20/46)	
	<u>100</u>

Summary of Dwellings let during year

New Dwellings - 34 Old Persons Bungalows (One-bedroomed) and Warden's Bungalow	35
(Allotted to:-	
Aged tenants living in existing Council Houses ..	6
Aged tenants living in condemned houses	5
Aged tenants from converted hutments	5
Aged tenants from Waiting List	18
Warden	<u>1</u>
	<u>35</u>)
Relets during year:-	
Applicants on Waiting List	35
Families in hutments	8
Families in condemned or Class 5 houses	<u>2</u>
	46

Hutments relet on sites retained by Council 23

Exchanges effected 15

Four families have been rehoused from Sites at Little Snoring held under requisition from the Ministry. The Council is now negotiating the purchase of Bell Close Site at Little Snoring, and when purchased this site will be retained for housing purposes for the present. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has extended the requisition on the Kettlestone Road and Bell Close Sites, Little Snoring until 30th June, 1960, and by this date it is hoped to rehouse the one remaining family on the Kettlestone Road Site, and the purchase of the Bell Close Site will be completed.

In order to shorten the time families have to live in hutments, the Council has now decided to allot on the ratio of 2:1 to these families in the case of relets. Further, 20 new dwellings are under construction at Lee Warner Avenue, Fakenham for the rehousing of families living in hutments and condemned houses and during 1960 many of the families who have been living in hutments for several years should be rehoused.

Housing Programme 1959

Lee Warner Avenue, Fakenham

In September 1959, a Scheme of Grouped Homes for Old Persons was completed, comprising 34 one-bedroomed bungalows and a Communal Block, providing for a three-bedroomed Warden's bungalow, Communal Room, Visitor's Bedroom, Tea Kitchen and Cloak-rooms, and this scheme has now been running very satisfactorily for three months. The tenants have settled in very comfortably and are very happy, and full use is being made of the Communal services provided. This scheme has been visited by many neighbouring authorities, who have been very impressed.

The tenants occupying these dwellings, whose average age is 71 years, were very carefully selected to comply with the requirements of the Norfolk County Council, came from 14 different parishes in this area, and were previously living in condemned houses, hutments, existing Council and private houses too large or unsuitable for their needs. The project has been carried out in co-operation with the Norfolk County Council, who are making an annual grant of £18 per dwelling, towards the Communal facilities.

The tenants have formed an Old People's Club, and the officers have been elected from amongst their number. Regular weekly Meetings are held, and religious services are held at the Communal Room, and outings and parties have already been organised. The Club has been presented with many gifts, including television, wireless, piano, chairs, card tables, wheel chair, games and donations to Club funds, and although the Club has only been in existence for three months, it is now running on a very sound basis.

Stibbard (3), Wighton (6)

The Council was not able to proceed with the building of nine bungalows in the above parishes, because the tenders received for this work were too high, and it was decided to re-advertise for tenders in January, 1960, and it is hoped these nine dwellings will be commenced during 1960.

Future Building Programme

The main problem is the rehousing of families living in 40 prefabricated bungalows in Lancaster Avenue, Fakenham, hutments at Little Snoring and Pudding Norton, and urgent cases on the Fakenham Waiting List. The Council decided in 1960 to build 30 dwellings in Fakenham on Lee Warner Avenue, and by infilling in Jubilee Avenue and Greenway Close to rehouse families living in prefabricated bungalows, and in 1961 to rehouse the remaining 10 families living in hutments.

The urgent cases on the Fakenham Waiting List can only be dealt with by relets.

A small number of houses will be required to be built in certain villages to rehouse families living in condemned houses, but relets should be sufficient to deal with the other urgent cases on the Waiting List.

The Council has decided to carry on with their existing policy not to build for "General Needs" as there is no Government subsidy available for this type of building. Thus, any urgent cases on the Waiting List can only be dealt with by relets, and it will be some considerable time before all such cases can be dealt with.

B.D. Riches. A.C.C.S.

APPENDIX A.- CLIMATIC DATA -

	Mean Daily Maximum Temp.	Mean daily minimum Temp.	Mean daily Temp.	Total rainfall (inches)	Mean Relative Humidity
January	38.0 (40.4)	29.8 (32.7)	33.9 (36.5)	3.33 (2.90)	91.25 (90.5)
February	43.9 (44.4)	34.3 (35.6)	39.1 (39.8)	0.26 (4.00)	89.5 (87.5)
March	50.6 (43.3)	38.4 (32.3)	44.5 (37.8)	1.22 (1.22)	85.75 (84.5)
April	55.7 (50.4)	42.1 (38.0)	48.9 (44.2)	1.64 (1.04)	78.5 (78.5)
May	59.8 (60.0)	44.7 (44.4)	52.3 (52.2)	0.93 (2.93)	77.0 (77.25)
June	68.2 (63.2)	49.5 (48.7)	58.9 (59.5)	1.01 (2.26)	70.75 (84.3)
July	72.6 (67.6)	53.9 (52.8)	63.3 (60.2)	3.16 (4.00)	74.75 (83.00)
August	71.5 (68.0)	55.3 (53.3)	63.4 (60.7)	1.39 (2.15)	77.25 (84.8)
September	68.2 (65.1)	49.7 (52.6)	58.9 (58.9)	.09 (2.57)	76.75 (85.5)
October	63.1 (56.5)	46.0 (45.9)	54.5 (51.9)	2.33 (2.27)	83.5 (88.8)
November	48.5 (47.7)	38.6 (40.0)	43.5 (43.9)	1.79 (1.62)	90.5 (93.0)
December	45.4 (43.7)	38.6 (35.6)	42.0 (38.7)	4.25 (2.98)	92.5 (94.8)

Figures in brackets denote preceding year's figures.

APPENDIX B.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	Males	Females	Totals
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
2. " other	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Meningococcal infections	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
4. Acute poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5. Cancer, Stomach	4 (5)	1 (1)	5 (6)
6. " Lung	3 (5)	- (-)	3 (5)
7. " Breast	- (-)	4 (3)	4 (3)
8. " Other forms	10 (14)	7 (14)	17 (28)
9. Diabetes	- (1)	2 (1)	2 (2)
10. Vascular lesions, nervous system	7 (14)	19 (15)	26 (29)
11. Coronary disease, angina	20 (13)	10 (10)	30 (23)
12. Hypertension with heart disease	1 (1)	- (2)	1 (3)
13. Other heart disease	22 (23)	18 (23)	40 (46)
14. Other disease of the circulation	4 (3)	2 (3)	6 (6)
15. Influenza	2 (2)	2 (2)	4 (3)
16. Pneumonia	5 (6)	7 (6)	12 (12)
17. Bronchitis	7 (4)	2 (2)	9 (6)
18. Other diseases of respiratory system	- (3)	- (1)	- (4)
19. Ulcers, stomach and duodenum	2 (1)	2 (-)	4 (1)
20. Gastritis and Diarrhoea	- (1)	1 (-)	1 (1)
21. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1 (1)	1 (-)	2 (1)
22. Prostatic enlargement	- (2)	- (-)	- (2)
23. Congenital malformations	- (1)	1 (1)	1 (2)
24. Other diseases	6 (9)	12 (9)	18 (18)
25. Motor vehicle accidents	6 (5)	1 (-)	7 (5)
26. All other accidents	4 (5)	1 (1)	5 (6)
27. Suicide	3 (1)	- (-)	3 (1)
Totals	102 (120)	96 (94)	203 (214)

Note: Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

- APPENDIX C -

Sources of Samples and Dates.	(1) Houghton St.Giles Public Supply - 7.12.59.	(2) Little Snoring Public Supply - 7.12.59.
Appearance	Clear	Opalescent
Nature of Deposit	Nil	Nil
Colour	Nil	Faint yellow
Reaction	Neutral. pH 7.2	Neutral. pH 7.2
Taste	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01	0.03
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.03	0.03
Nitrate Nitrogen	6.5	Nil
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Nil
Chlorine as Chlorides	22	22
Oxygen absorbed	0.04	0.24
Total hardness	325	290
Temp. hardness	240	255
Metals in Solution	Iron - trace	Iron - trace
Fluorine	Nil	Nil
Opinion	Fit	Fit

-- APPENDIX C Contd. --

(3) Bore N.Creake Airfield 7.12.59.	(4) Bore Fakenham Public Supply 7.12.59.	(5) Hindolvestone Council House Supply.31.12.59.	(6) Co-op Stores Melton Constable Brit:Rlys.Supply 31.12.59.
Opalescent	Clear	Clear - yellow deposit	Clear
Iron compounds	Nil	Iron compounds	Nil
Faint yellow	Nil	Slightly yellow	Nil
Neutral pH 7.2	Neutral pH 7.1	Neutral pH 7.3	Faintly alkaline pH 7.6
Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
0.02	0.01	0.43	0.01
0.07	0.02	0.06	0.03
Nil	4	0.5	Nil
Nil	Nil	0.01	Negligible trace
20	32	28	21
0.22	0.20	0.6	0.15
310	385	220	245
270	270	195	210
Iron - trace	Iron - trace	Iron - trace	Iron - trace
Nil	Nil	0.10	0.15
Fit	Fit	Fit	Fit

APPENDIX D.

Report on Bacteriological examination of samples of water taken during year.				
<u>Parish</u>	<u>Public Supply</u>		<u>Private Sources</u>	
	<u>Satis- factory.</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory.</u>	<u>(wells)</u> <u>Satis- factory.</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory.</u>
Barney	1	-	-	1
Barsham, North	-	-	1	-
Binham	-	-	1	-
Blakeney	2	-	-	-
Briningham	-	-	-	2
Brinton	1	-	-	1
Briston	-	-	4	-
Fakenham	16	-	-	-
Fulmodestone	-	-	1	-
Hempton	-	-	-	1
Hindolveston	-	-	3	-
Holkham	-	-	-	2
Houghton St. Giles	1	-	-	-
Kettlestone	-	-	1	3
Raynham	-	-	1	-
Ryburgh, Lt.	-	-	1	-
Sculthorpe	1	-	1	-
Sharrington	1	-	1	-
Snoring, Lt.	1	-	-	1
Stibbard	1	-	-	1
Swanton Novers	3	1	-	-
Tattersett	1	-	-	-
Thorpland	1	-	-	-
Thursford	-	-	-	1
Toftrees	-	-	-	1
Wighton	1	-	-	-
Wiveton	-	-	1	-
Totals	31	1	16	14

APPENDIX E.Factories Acts 1937 -- 59.

Annual Report for 1959 under Section 123(3) of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which §.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	12	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which §.7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	11	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which §.7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	N/A	-	-	-
Total	93	23	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found :-

Want of cleanliness (§.1))	
Overcrowding (§.2))	
Unreasonable temperature (§.3))	
Inadequate ventilation (§.4))	
Ineffective drainage (§.6)	)	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (§.7))	
a) Insufficient)	
b) Unsuitable)	
c) Not seperate for sexes)	
Other offences against Act.)	

Part Vlll of the Act.

Outworkers - Nil.

PART II

THE REPORT OF
ENGINEER & SURVEYOR
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(A.H. EAGLE, M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H., Cert.S.I.B.)

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.Public Health Acts

Initial Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	239
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180
Means of Escape from Fire	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Housing Acts

House Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Revisits in connection with above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Visits in connection with applications for grants under Housing Act 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	157
Visits re Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	249

Food and Drugs Act

Premises Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	207
Visits re manufacture and sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Visits to dairies and inspections of milk retailers' vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	289
Visits re Shellfish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Sewerage

Inspection of sewerage systems, disposal works and sewer ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	436
Visits to Fakenham Pumping Station	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Visits to Fakenham Sewage Farm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Contract (Sewerage) Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
House Drainage Reconnection Visits (Section 42)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Closet Conversion Visits (Section 47)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24

District Scavenging

Visiting workmen on rounds, investigating complaints etc	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	362
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79

Factories Act

Inspection of factories with power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Inspection of factories without power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Building Byelaws Inspections

Inspections during course of construction	798
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Infectious Diseases

Cases investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21

Rooms Disinfested

...	23
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Petroleum Acts

Installations inspected and tested	38
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Small Dwellings Acquisition Act

Valuations and visits	19
-----------------------	-----	------	------	------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

...	65
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Knackers' Yards

Inspections	16
-------------	-----	-----	-----	------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Street Naming and Numbering Visits

...	1
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Water Supply - Existing Mains

...	4
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Water Supply - New Contracts

...	220
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Other Inspections - Not classified under the headings above but made in connection therewith

...	107
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

 3,999

NOTICES SERVEDInformal Notices

Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	90	(109)
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	23	(27)
Factories Act	..	...	...	...	2	(3)
Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	105	(110)
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	.	...	...	...	20	(5)

Total Notices Served 240

Formal NoticesFood and Drugs Act

Permission to serve	.	...	...	...	...	1
Served	...	...	...	...	...	1

Public Health Acts

Permission to serve	.	...	...	...	...	19	(15)
Served	...	...	...	...	...	19	(14)

Total Notices Served 20

HOUSING(a) Slum Clearance

The following table sets out progress made under this heading:-

Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure ..	40	(48)
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Council	11	(15)
Number of houses made fit by owners as a result of formal action	1	(8)
Number of houses made fit after the service of formal notices by Council in default of owners	Nil	(-)
Undertakings given by owners not to re-let	Nil	(7)
Undertakings given by owners that houses will cease to be used for human habitation	7	(12)
Number of demolition orders made during the year	4	(14)
Number of closing orders made during the year	Nil	(-)

(b) New Dwellings

The following figures include conversions of non-domestic buildings to habitations.

By private persons	-	30 completed and 17 under construction at the end of year.
By Local Authority	-	35 completed and 20 under construction at the end of year.

(Figures in brackets relate to preceding year).

(c) Improvement Grants - Discretionary

The analysis of the effect of these grants since their inception is as follows:-

Total Amount notified to rank for grant	For occupation by		Grant essential to preserve house and provide amenities	Grant to improve amenities only
	Owner	Tenant		
<u>Up to December 1958</u>				
£52,466.13.0.	74	124	40	158
(£44,325. 3.0.)	(58)	(110)	(36)	(132)
<u>January - December 1959</u>				
£6,901. 0.0.	8	15	7	16
(£8,141.10.0.)	(16)	(14)	(4)	(26)

Figures in brackets relate to preceding year.

Improvement Grants - Standard

This type of grant has proved popular especially in areas where mains water has been introduced recently.

The analysis of the effect of these grants since their inception is as follows:-

<u>Total Amount notified to rank for grant</u>	<u>For occupation by</u>	
	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Tenant</u>
<u>July 1959 to December 1959</u>		
£4,265.0.0.	12	17

Plans Brought Before the Plans Committee

The following table sets out the number of plans considered by the Plans Committee during the year. A total of 310 plans were considered compared with 235 last year.

<u>New Dwellings</u>	<u>Alterations to dwellings</u>	<u>Factories</u>	<u>Domestic Garages</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
45	76	6	46	99
<u>Outline applications</u>				
24	-	4	-	10

District Scavenging -

Closer supervision of this service has been exercised this year directly from the Office and Mr. Page has undertaken the additional work and early hours involved. Efforts continue to be made to bring the tips as near as possible to the high standard prescribed by the Ministry. The disposal of an ever increasing bulk of refuse is not necessarily a simple matter even in a rural area. Covering material is scarce in the pits themselves which are usually worked-out gravel or chalk pits and land owners display an increasing reluctance to permit the use of land for refuse disposal because of the risk of rat breeding, despite the care exercised in the method of its disposal and the services provided by the rat catchers. Furthermore the number of suitable pits is further restricted by the essential prerequisite that they should be readily accessible from a highway.

New tips have been opened at Thursford and Kettlestone and one has been closed at Swanton Novers.

SEWERAGE

Some progress in this field has occurred at FAKENHAM where after 45 years the pumps and rising main to the Sewage Farm, just within the parish of Sculthorpe, were replaced by new pumping plant and a rising main to the new works at Pudding Norton. Fair analyses were obtained for the effluent from the works bearing in mind its early life.

The Sewage Farm of twenty acres was sold for £2,100.

Connection of domestic premises to the sewers at WALSINGHAM was completed but 43 pail closets had not been converted to water closets at the end of the year.

MELTON sewage works has been maintained as well as can be, but the works require enlargement and/or renewal.

Storms occurring in FAKENHAM on 5th June, 11th and 28th July caused serious flooding in the Nelson Road and Post Office areas, houses being invaded by discharge from combined and surface water sewers. Plans to alleviate these conditions are to be prepared.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

In April two additional ratcatchers were appointed by the Council so that agricultural land could be included in the village-by-village treatments which are carried out. This was necessitated by the cessation of the rat-killing service formerly offered to farmers by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

All agricultural land is now inspected with the villages, and steps are taken to ensure that any infestation found is dealt with either by the Council's men, by treatments undertaken by the farmers themselves or by estate gamekeepers. One criticism I have after nearly a year's results are available is the slowness of operation whereby even those land occupiers who are willing to employ the rat-catchers are not getting the early service so essential if their support is to be retained.

During the year 8,859 inspections of property were made, 1,782 domestic and 201 other premises were treated, and regular attention was given to refuse tips, sewerage systems and other premises occupied by the Council.

Charges amounting to £207.9.7. were made for treatments to 107 business and 32 agricultural premises.

FOOD(a) Food preparing premises

Two butcher's shops ceased to operate during the year and one new fried fish shop was opened.

Statutory action was taken against the occupier of one butcher's shop and improvements in conditions were obtained as a result without further legal action having to be taken.

Market food-stalls continued to be satisfactory.

Bakehouses	6	Fish Shops	11
Butcher's Shops	18	Market Stalls	11
Catering	14	Provision Stores	86
Establishments			

Ninety premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream. With the exception of one, the ice-cream sold is of the three well-known proprietary brands and is wrapped. Nine samples of ice-cream were taken, all being classified as Grade I.

(b) Milk

There has been no change in the number or designation of the registered distributors of milk in the District.

Thirty-seven samples were taken by the County Council Officers. None failed the phosphatase test for efficiency of heat treatment or the methylene blue or cleanliness test. Six samples were void of one or other of the tests.

(c) Meat Inspection

Carcases Inspected and Condemned - For the year ended 1959.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number Slaughtered	356	27	735	535
Number Inspected	347 (393)	27(25)	715(693)	519(624)
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis-</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	64 (46)	1(1)	18(20)	29(30)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17.9%	3;7%	2.5%	5.6%
<u>Tuberculosis Only-</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11(24)	-(9)	-	8(12)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.2%	-	-	1.5%
<u>Cysticercosis-</u>				
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	8(6)	-	-	-
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration	8(6)	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES.

(a) <u>No. on Register</u>	<u>No. Inspected</u>	<u>No. in which defects were found</u>	<u>No. in which defects were remedied by</u>	
			<u>Informal Notice</u>	<u>Formal Notice</u>
93	23	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) Means of Escape from Fire

Four certificates on adequacy of means of escape from fires were issued in respect of premises in the District.

26.
WATER SUPPLIES.

The following contracts have been undertaken under the supervision of the Public Health Department:-

South-Western Parishes

A contract valued at £14,400 was carried out in Toftrees, Helhoughton, East, West and South Raynham and included the laying of 10,550 yards of main in those parishes utilising the existing 3" main from Hempton to Raynham R.A.F. Station laid in 1939 as a rising main to the airfield

A reinforced concrete tower of 30,000 gallons capacity was erected at a cost of £10,059 at West Raynham.

Central Parishes

This contract valued at £30,121 was for 14,700 yards of main in the parishes of Barney, Fulmodestone, Stibbard and Kettlestone, and Great and Little Ryburgh (Completed April 1960)

The High Road area, Briston, was included in this area and a 3" main laid.

Swanton Novers.

This contract was an extension of the South-Eastern parishes contract completed 1958/9 and included the construction of a Booster Station and 4" main to the village from Gunthorpe. The contract sum was £6,784.

Extensions to mains.

300 yards of 3" main was extended in The Drift, Fakenham to provide a supply to the poultry packing station.

640 yards of subsidiary main in polythene tube was laid in the parishes of Swanton Novers and Gunthorpe.

Fakenham Waterworks.

The sinking of a submersible pump was authorised as part of the South-Western Parishes contract.

Pumping Statistics

<u>Month</u>	<u>Houghton Pumping Station to Gunthorpe Reservoir</u>		<u>Gunthorpe Reservoir to Fakenham Tower</u>	
	<u>Total gallons</u>	<u>Daily Average gallons</u>	<u>Total gallons</u>	<u>Daily Average gallons.</u>
January	8,555,000	275,967	3,800,000	122,580
February	7,799,000	278,535	3,442,000	122,928
March	8,278,000	267,032	3,714,000	119,806
April	8,220,000	274,000	3,798,000	126,600
May	8,909,000	287,387	4,008,000	129,290
June	10,104,000	336,800	5,012,000	167,066
July	10,800,000	354,839	5,128,000	165,419
August	10,053,000	324,290	4,429,000	142,870
September	9,924,000	330,800	4,389,000	146,300
October	8,736,000	281,806	4,276,000	137,935
November	9,102,000	303,400	3,646,000	121,533
December	9,625,000	311,354	3,872,000	124,903

A.H.EAGLE,

Engineer and Surveyor,

Public Health Inspector.

